

if I was willing to go with him into the Indian Country as he had been with General Gage to get a commission & orders to go into the Indian Countrys to raise the Indians & the French & there is some part of the royal Irish I think he said at Fort Chartres & they have orders from General Gage to join him & he told me they had nine twelve pounders. But as soon as he gets into Virginia & settles his business with his Lordship as he dares not go up the country he intends to take his Lordships Tender & to go to St Augustine & there to get guides to convey him through the Cherokees nation & from thence to the Shawneys mineoes & Delaways but he is to get Commissions from Lord Dunmore for Cap^t White Eyes & Cornstalk & other of the chiefs & to make them Presents he intends to stay at the Detroit all winter in order to get Boats & Canoes built to bring his Forces up the Ohio & the Cannon the first place he intends to fall upon is Fort Pitt & to take That & then he says that he thinks that most part of that quarter will join him as he says he has orders to give them three hundred acres of land to each man that will join him. and another scheme he told me he was going to put into execution that is in regard to convicts & indentured servants to set them at their liberty & to give them land to join him & when he has taken Fort Pitt he intends to proceed down for Alexandria & there he is to be reinforced by said Dunmore & some men of War & then to sweep all the Country before him. As Your Excellency knows what state that Country his in & I thought it most fitting to disclose it to your Excellency I wrote the letter in Rhode Island to send down lest I could not have had the opportunity of getting from the vessel but I made my escape one night by great chance & a young man that was pressed on Board who is now with his parents in Rhode Island which the Major wanted to go along with him I left all my cloaths & all that I had on Board but that is nothing so I could be of any service to my country & I hope every well meaning man god will reward for so doing I hope your Excellency will excuse my Freedom but I could not be at rest till I had disclosed the matter to your Excellency. please to permit me to subscribe myself,

Your Excellencys hble Serv^t to command

William Cowley

Original.

[Hooe to Jenifer.]

Alex^a Jan^y 9th 1776

Hon^{ble} Sir. Cap^t Conway has never been able to get his Vessell ready to take in till this day tho' he has used great industry, the Weather, the Hollydays &c has been against him.